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University of Minnesota  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Division of Agricultural Extension  
University Farm, St. Paul



A Boys' Corn Club Judging Contest

## ACRE YIELD CORN CONTEST FOR 1914

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Through the liberality of Northrup, King & Co., seed men of Minneapolis, \$800 has been provided to be used as State prizes for a Boys' Acre Yield Corn Contest. The contest will again be supervised by the Agricultural Extension Division.

### MANAGEMENT OF CONTESTS County Used as Basis

The contest will be conducted in much the same way as in 1913, except in checking the yield. If possible, every county should have a local contest supervised by the county agricultural agent, county superintendent of schools, and the high school agriculturists of the county. Several county fair associations have already appropriated funds for county contests while in some counties the bankers and other business men have promised the funds.

#### Who May Enter the Contest

Any boy over 10 years of age and under 18, July 1, 1914, in any county in the State where a contest is held, may enter. There is no entry fee. It

is only necessary to sign the agreement to abide by the rules of the contest, and carry out, as far as possible, the instructions sent by the Agricultural Extension Division, and then grow the corn. Every contestant must enroll with the Agricultural Extension Division whether he is in the county contest or not.

#### Agreement

I desire to enter the State Acre Corn-Growing Contest. I agree to abide by the rules of the Contest, to study all instructions sent out, and to send in reports promptly when they are called for.

Name .....  
Age ..... Date of Birthday .....  
.....  
Address ..... County .....  
Section ..... Twp. .... Rge. ....  
Are you a member of a Boys' Club?  
.....

### Rules

Each contestant must agree to the following provisions:

1. He must not raise more than four acres of corn from which to pick the best acre at harvest time.

2. The corn may be drilled or checked any distance in the row, but the rows must be 3 feet 8 inches apart, 3 feet 6 inches apart, or 3 feet 4 inches apart, in order to make the demonstration acre conform to normal farm practice.

3. The acre plot chosen must be at least 12 rows wide and include the ground beyond the two outside rows, to a distance half as great as that between the rows.

4. He must do all the work required to grow the crop, unless he is too young to plow the ground or do the work preparatory to plowing, it being permissible to secure assistance in this work if full account of all expense is entered in the cost of production.

5. He must keep a record of all operations on blanks sent out by the Agricultural Extension Division, and must send in all reports promptly to the Agricultural Extension Division. Three reports will be necessary, one after the planting has been completed, one after cultivation has ceased, and one after harvest.

### Checking the Yield

As soon as the corn is ripe, each contestant should husk every sixth row and fraction of a row of his acre and weigh the ears accurately. **The rest of the corn shall be left standing.** Multiply this result by 6 to get the total number of pounds per acre. Seventy-two pounds of matured corn shall be regarded as a bushel. The superintendent of schools, county agricultural agent, high school agriculturist, or some neighbor should be asked to assist in checking the yield and in measuring the plot so that some one besides the contestant or some member of his family can certify to its accuracy. As soon as this first checking has been done the contestant should report the result to the Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul.

The Agricultural Extension Division will then send a man to recheck the acres of the four contestants who have ranked highest in each county, so that a distribution of State prizes may be made. The State man will husk another sixth of the acre, weigh the corn picked, take samples in airtight containers, to be tested at the

College of Agriculture for moisture content, and thus determine the actual rechecked yield of air-dry corn per acre.

### Selecting Seed Corn and Harvesting the Crop

Every contestant should select as much seed corn as possible. This may be done at any time from the two-thirds of the acre not used for checking the yield. As soon as the yield has been checked the first time, that is, after one has checked his acre of corn by husking every sixth row, he must leave one row beside each husked row for the State man to husk. Then he may use the balance for seed or cut and shock it as he prefers.

### Local Prizes

It is suggested that prizes be offered in each county, in addition to the State prizes to which only the highest four contestants in each county will be eligible, in order to encourage those whose industry has secured for them high yields, yet who have fallen short of the highest four yields. It is suggested that \$75 be proportioned as follows among the highest nine contestants, as prizes: First, \$20; second, \$15; third, \$10; the next 6 each \$5. In many of the counties it may appear advisable to give as prizes, farm animals, scholarships in schools, agricultural implements, and other similar inducements.

It is also suggested that every contestant be urged to exhibit ten of his best ears of corn at the county fair. If possible, \$20 should be appropriated for this purpose and awarded as follows: First, \$5; second, \$4; third, \$3; fourth, \$2; and the next six \$1 each.

### Basis of Awards

The State prizes will be awarded on the following basis:

Yield of dry corn, 60 per cent.

Financial statement showing economy of production, 20 per cent.

Completeness of all required reports and promptness with which they are filed with the Agricultural Extension Division, report to include a story by each contestant of "How I Grew My Acre of Corn," 20 per cent.

### Financial Statements

The financial statement which each contestant must keep, and which makes up 20 per cent of the final

score, must include every expense incurred in producing the corn. The blank sheets which will be sent to each contestant to be filled out and filed with the Agricultural Extension Division will provide for an accurate account of each operation, such as cost of seed, fertilizing, plowing, harrowing, planting, cultivating, and husking. In the cost of production will be included horse and man labor, rent of the land, machinery cost, and any other expense. The financial statement is very essential, for upon it will depend the knowledge of the profitability of the crop.

### The State Prizes

In the distribution of prizes, the State will be divided into three zones, as follows:

**Northern Zone.**—All counties north of the south line of Wilkin, Grant, Douglas, Todd, Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, and Pine Counties.

**Central Zone.**—All counties south of the northern zone, and north of the south line of Yellow Medicine, Renville, Sibley, Scott, and Dakota Counties.

**Southern Zone.**—All counties south of the Central Zone.

The prizes awarded in each zone will be apportioned as follows: First, \$40; second, \$30; third, \$20; fourth, \$10; and the next ten, \$5 each.

Club prizes in each zone will be: First, \$25; second, \$15; and third, \$10. Clubs must have at least 10 members and basis of award will be the average score won by the members of the club. Clubs competing must be organized and names of officers reported to the Agricultural Extension Division before June 1, 1914.

This apportionment gives \$200 in cash prizes to the contestants in each zone.

### A \$200 Sweepstakes Prize

To the boy who secures highest rank in the State Contest will be given a \$200 scholarship at the State School of Agriculture, at University Farm, St. Paul. Of the \$200 scholarship, \$100 will be paid during the first year, \$50 during the second year, and \$50 during the third year. With only a little money additional, which may easily be earned in the two summers between the school terms, this prize will give its winner a complete agricultural course.

### A Special Prize

The champion corn-growing boy of

Minnesota for 1914 will also win a free trip to Washington, D. C.

### State Fair Prizes

A special exhibit will be made by contestants at the 1914 State Fair. The State Fair management is offering splendid cash prizes for three lots: Best half bushel; best ten ears; best single ear. Entries are limited to members of the 1913 Acre Yield Contest, and every 1913 contestant is urged to reserve corn from the 1913 crop for this exhibit.

### Honor Roll

An Honor Roll in corn-growing will be established for those securing high yields. Certificates of merit will be granted for yields as follows:

Those living in the two southernmost tiers of townships in the State (Nos. 101 and 102) must get a yield of 80 bushels per acre; those in the next two tiers of townships north of the first, 79 bushels per acre; and, for each succeeding two tiers of townships northward, the yield required shall be one bushel less; making the yield required in townships Nos. 131 and 132, central Minnesota, 65 bushels; and in the extreme north, township No. 163, 49 bushels.

### Corn Clubs

This contest can be most effectively carried on through Boys' Corn Clubs. The boys in each locality, who expect to enter the contest, should organize a Corn Club, for the purpose of carrying on the contest. By coöperating in this way, club members can secure seed together, and study the best methods of selecting seed and caring for the crop. An exchange of ideas in the club meeting is always valuable. Where a good club is organized and carries on the work successfully, a representative from the Agricultural Extension Division will be sent out to visit the club and look over the fields during the summer. Boys should ask their teachers to help them in organizing such clubs.

### Notebook and Expense Account

Each contestant should keep a notebook for recording all operations and points of interest in regard to the crop. These notes will be of value in filling out reports and in writing the history of the crop. In order to be sure that nothing is forgotten or omitted, they should be made each day as the work is done.

### Time Limit

All reports and crop stories must be mailed to the Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul, not later than November 1, 1914.

As soon as contestants have registered for the contest they will be furnished with expense tables and blanks for reporting their operations and expenses.

## DIRECTIONS FOR CONTEST-ANTS

### Selecting the Plot

Select a fertile, well-drained piece of soil for your corn. Fall-plowed sod land will generally give best results. Get the very best piece of land possible. It will probably pay to fertilize the land well with barnyard manure. Well-rotted manure should be spread thinly on the land, and well worked into the soil. A thin top-dressing of manure, after the corn has been planted, may be beneficial.

In many cases the acre plot will be along the side or in the corner of the regular cornfield. In such cases, it should not be put directly on the edge or in the corner; but there should be a few border rows along the outside, so that the acre plot will not be damaged by the turning, in cultivating.

### Where to Get Seed

It requires only about 15 ears of corn to plant one acre. The kind of seed planted has a great influence on the kind and yield of corn harvested. Ears of corn have a tendency to reproduce themselves. To secure a large yield, you will need many large, mature, well-bred ears for your acre. Because of the small number of ears required, and the great influence the seed has on the future crop, you can afford to spend considerable time and effort in the selection of your seed. If your father has some good seed corn, ask him to help you select 15 or 20 ears of the very best for your acre. Take some of your corn to

school, or to a meeting of your Corn Club. You can probably learn something about selecting corn from the other members of the club, and from the teacher. It pays to exchange ideas on such matters. In case you wish to buy some seed, write to the Extension Division, telling what kind of corn you want, and explaining that you want the corn for the Acre Contest. We will refer you to some one in your section who can furnish you with good seed, adapted to your conditions. If you have an Agricultural High School in your locality, ask the Agricultural Instructor to help you in securing good seed. It will pay you to start with good seed.

### Preparing the Seed for Planting

Having procured enough seed to plant the acre, prepare this seed for planting. Every ear intended for planting should be tested for germinating power. This is very important. If one ear out of the 15 required fails to grow, you will lose one-fifteenth of your crop at the start. In order to get a good stand of productive stalks on your acre, you must be sure that every kernel you plant has strong germinating power. Weak ears will not bring results. You cannot afford to cultivate missing hills on your acre. There are several good methods of testing seed corn. Perhaps you know a good plan. In case you do not have a good method of testing, you should learn at school how to test your seed. Simple directions for making an individual-ear test at home have been sent to every school, and your teacher will explain how to make the test; or write to the Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul, for directions. Do not fail to test your seed. "Well begun is half done."

Having tested your corn, grade it for the planter. Shell off the butt and tip kernels. Then shell each ear, and pick out all odd-shaped, broken or damaged kernels. If your father has a corn-grader, use it. Next, test the planter for drop, in order to make sure that the required number of kernels will be planted in each hill. This will aid in securing a perfect stand.